



Sheffield TIMES

Community Newsletter for Sheffield & Ashley Falls, MA, SECOND GENERATION, Special Supplement, May 2003

This special Town Meeting & Election supplement has been mailed to all addresses in Town. It is brought to you by the Sheffield Association.

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**How to Contribute to
the *Sheffield Times* Page 7**

On April 25 the Board of Selectmen issued the Warrant for the Town Meeting to be held May 5, 2003, at 7pm at Mt. Everett Regional High School and the Town Election on May 12, 2003, 9am to 7pm at the Town Hall. The complete text of the Warrant is printed below. It sets forth the proposed expenditure budget for the Town's Fiscal Year ending in July 2004.

Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Town of Sheffield

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Berkshire, ss

To the Constables of the Town of Sheffield in said County of Berkshire, *Greeting:*

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the Inhabitants of the Town of Sheffield, qualified to vote in Town affairs, to meet in the auditorium of the Mt. Everett Regional High School on Berkshire School Road in Sheffield on Monday, May 5, 2003 at 7:00 P.M. for the following purposes:

ARTICLE 1: To hear and act upon the Annual Reports of the Town Officers and Committees of the Town, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 2: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate, and/or transfer from available funds, such sums of money as listed below, and as may be amended, necessary to defray the expenses of the Town for Fiscal Year 2004, or take any other action relative thereto.

MODERATOR	.....	\$150
SELECTMEN'S OFFICE	.....	\$133,774
BOARD OF ASSESSORS	.....	\$68,137
TREASURER/COLLECTOR	.....	\$109,586
TOWN CLERK	.....	\$45,966
ELECTIONS & REGISTRATION	.....	\$17,999
CONSERVATION COMMISSION	.....	\$3,265
PLANNING BOARD	.....	\$4,750
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT COMM.	.....	\$1,000
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS	.....	\$2,000
TOWN BUILDINGS AND PROPERTIES	.....	\$66,775
TOWN REPORT	.....	\$3,000
DISPATCH SERVICES	.....	\$21,125
POLICE DEPARTMENT	.....	\$256,601
FIRE DEPARTMENT	.....	\$29,393
INSPECTORIAL SERVICES	.....	\$33,660
FIRE HYDRANTS	.....	\$8,152
DOG OFFICER	.....	\$5,700

Continued on page 2



Town Meeting WARRANT

Continued from page 1

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT	\$409,489
STREETLIGHTS	\$8,000
BOARD OF HEALTH	\$14,946
VISITING NURSE ASSOCIATION	\$2,791
COUNCIL ON AGING	\$26,667
VETERANS BENEFITS	\$1,000
LIBRARY	\$104,154
HISTORICAL COMMISSION	\$100
MEMORIAL DAY	\$600
AMERICAN LEGION	\$500
CARE OF SOLDIERS' GRAVES	\$1,188
INTEREST ON LOANS	\$1
BERKSHIRE COUNTY RETIREMENT	\$100,072
WORKER'S COMPENSATION	\$6,000
UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION FUND	\$1
GROUP HEALTH (32B) INSURANCE	\$160,000
EMPLOYER MEDICARE	\$10,500
FINANCIAL AUDIT	\$9,000
INSURANCE & BONDING	\$45,000

ARTICLE 3: To see if the town will vote to fix the compensation of the following elected officers of the Town for Fiscal Year 2004, as required by Chapter 41, Section 108 of the General Laws: Moderator \$150; Selectman, Chairman \$2,100; Selectmen, two members at \$1,800 each, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to approve the Southern Berkshire Regional School District Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2004 and vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds, \$4,087,810 to pay the town's assessed share of that budget, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to approve the Southern Berkshire Regional School District Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2004 and vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds, \$323,283 to pay the town's assessed share of that budget, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 6: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds, \$800 to pay the stipend for Sheffield's committee members of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 7: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds, \$26,684 to pay for vocational education in Fiscal Year 2004, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 8: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds, a sum of money for the disposal and management of solid waste, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Health to employ any of its members, including members who also serve on the Board of Selectmen, as Title 5 Witnesses for Septic Systems Evaluation Tests and Inspections at a rate of \$30.00 per inspection, and/or Sanitation (Title 5) Inspector at an annual salary of \$500 for Fiscal Year 2004, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 10: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from Overlay Surplus, and/or transfer from available funds, \$50,000 to provide for extraordinary or unforeseen expenditures under the provisions of Chapter 40, Section 6 of the General Laws, known as the Reserve Fund, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 11: To see if the town will vote to authorize the Treasurer/Collector to sell, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, any parcel or parcels of real estate which have been or may be acquired through the foreclosure of tax title, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 12: To see if the town will vote to accept the provisions of the third sentence of the first paragraph of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, Section 2A, subsection (a), which reads as follows, or take any other action relative thereto:

Notwithstanding the foregoing, in any city or town which accepts the provisions of this sentence, buildings and other things erected on or affixed to land during the period beginning January second and ending on June thirtieth of the fiscal year preceding that to which the tax relates shall be deemed part of such real property as of January first.

ARTICLE 13: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds, \$35,053 to pay principal and interest on the bonded indebtedness authorized by Town Meeting vote of January 30, 1995, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 14: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds \$7,159 to purchase and/or repair various equipment for the Fire Department, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 15: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds \$750 to the Emergency Response Fund, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 16: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds \$80,000 to be used for the purchase of a new Front-end/Wheel Loader for the Highway Department, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 17: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds, \$26,600 to purchase a new police cruiser and mobile radio unit and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to trade-in or sell the town's 1997 police cruiser, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 18: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds, \$14,500 to pay for the State-mandated triennial property recertification, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 19: To see if the town will vote to authorize the funds approved under Article 13 of the 2000 Annual Town Meeting (painting of Police Station Trim) to be used for the painting of the exterior trim of the Town Hall, or take any other action relative thereto.

You are also directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Sheffield, qualified to vote in Town elections, to meet in the Town Hall on Depot Street in Sheffield on Monday, May 12, 2003 at 9:00 AM then and there to bring in their votes for the election of the following Town Officers:

One Moderator for one year
One Selectman for three years
One Library Trustee for three years
Two Planning Board members for three years

All of said officers to be voted for on the official ballots furnished at the polls. The polls will be opened at 9:00 AM and closed at 7:00 PM.

You are directed to serve this Warrant by posting an attested copy in seven public places in the Town, not less than seven days before the date of said meeting.

Hereof Fail Not, and make return of this Warrant to the Town Clerk, with your doings thereon, at or before the time of said meeting.

Given under our hands and the Seal of the Town of Sheffield this twenty-fourth day of April in the year of our Lord Two Thousand and Three.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

Janet G. Stanton

David D. Macy

Richard J. Kirchner

In obedience to the within Warrant, I have notified and warned the inhabitants of the Town of Sheffield qualified to vote in Town or State Elections and Primaries by posting seven attested copies of said warrant in seven public places at least seven days prior to said election.

candidates

AT-A-GLANCE

Board of Selectmen:

Term: Three years

Candidates: One — Janet Stanton

Seats open: One



Janet Stanton is has served on the Board since 1994. She is “unenrolled” and feels that she provides a good balance with the other members (democrat & republican).

Janet’s family has been in Sheffield for five generations, and she spent most of her childhood in Sheffield where she helped her grandfather on their farm off Hewins Street. She has two grown children and has been involved with various community projects since they were young, including helping to start Sheffield’s 4-H program and serving on both the Parent Advisory and School Building Committees.

Janet is a pediatric nurse practitioner, starting at BCC, then moving to UMass and Northeastern for her Masters and specialty. She worked with the Children’s Health Program for 11 years, including several as director. Janet returned to Sheffield in 1993 and ran for the Board — after attending many meetings and talking with a lot of people — because the community had been so good to her when she returned that she wanted to give something back. There is still a lot that she would like to accomplish. Janet wants people to feel comfortable coming to the Town Hall or the Board with issue and concerns. She also feels that the Master Plan is essential so Sheffield can grow as the community wants, not haphazardly. She also feels the town needs to nourish and support the seniors, including finding a permanent senior center. Janet also has “dreams of renovating the 3rd floor of Town Hall.”

CANDIDATE PROFILES

The following are brief profiles of each of the candidates for elected office in the May 12, 2003, town elections.

Profiles are in alphabetical order by board or office. Within any board or office candidates are listed alphabetically. All positions are included regardless of whether there is a contest or not.

Library Trustee:

Term: Three years

Candidates: One — Betty LeGeyt

Seats open: One



Betty LeGeyt is the unopposed incumbent candidate for re-election to the Board of Library Trustees where she is has served for nine years.

Betty grew up in Lynn, Massachusetts and attended Boston University. She moved to Sheffield in 1963 to be the minister at the Sheffield and Ashley Falls Methodist churches. Betty has four grown children and seven grandchildren and lives with her husband, Dick, on their dairy farm on LeGeyt Road. She is currently the minister for the Ashley Falls and Canaan, CT Methodist churches. Betty also serves on the School Committee.

Betty is very pleased with the new dimensions that have been added to the library working with the new librarian. She is pleased with programs for young people, and is looking forward to increasing the involvement with the library of “older youth” — junior high and high school age. Betty feels that the current Trustees work well together and are in a good position to make continued growth a reality.

TOWN ELECTIONS - MONDAY, MAY 12, 2003

VOTE 9AM-7PM IN THE CARLTON FRENCH MEETING ROOM AT TOWN HALL

candidates AT-A-GLANCE

Planning Board

Term: Three Years

Candidates: Three — Jared Clayton, John Downie, and Danial Moulton

Seats open: Two



Jared Clayton is an Independent. He grew up in Ashley Falls, where his family has lived in the Clayton and Polikoff Road area since the late 1800s. He worked for United Technologies in their chemistry lab before going to NW Connecticut Community College and Wesleyan on a scholarship, moving to California and pursuing further degrees in Landscape Architecture at Berkely and Merritt College. He ran a very successful business in his chosen field in N. California, but always knew that he would return home - where his heart is. He purchased his house in 1987 and moved back full time in 2001.

Jared has always been politically active and involved in his community, helping to found his Neighborhood Association in California; co-sponsoring a successful \$60 million dollar bond to support parks, recreation, open space, senior centers and the local zoo; and working with a coalition of neighborhood associations, the city and the Navy for base re-use plans. Through these experiences he has learned to work well with people with diverse points of view to come to mutually agreeable solutions. "That is how things get done."

He is running for the Planning Board because he loves his village, has been very lucky all his life, and wants to give back to the community. He believes strongly in the Master Planning process and hopes to be able to use the skills he has learned over the years toward that and in the work of the Planning Board.



John Downie is a Republican. He and his wife Audrey have been Ashley Falls residents for 40 years. He has three adult sons including a set of twins. He worked in the Sheffield Office of Wheeler and Taylor until retiring in 1981 and has been involved with Grace Bible Church, town activities, the Sheffield Land Trust and The Trustees of Reservations, especially Bartholomew's Cobble. He served for 13 years as a member of the Planning Board in the 1980's and 90's, was appointed an alternate member two years ago and was reelected as a regular member last year to fill out the one year remaining term of retiring member Dominic Palumbo.

Having been a member of the Planning Board when the Master Plan process started, he would like to see it through to its conclusion. He is delighted that the Planning Board voted to submit the Master Plan, when completed, to the Town Meeting for its approval because he believes it is very important for the citizens to consider and vote on the various planning options open to the town and an affirmative vote will mean that the Plan will have much greater legitimacy. Also, he is very pleased that so many residents have joined the various committees established to address different aspects of the Master Plan.

Planning Board Candidates Continued on page 6

Sheffield TIMES

Community Newsletter for Sheffield & Ashley Falls, MA.

Executive Editors: Kathy Orlando & Andrea Scott;

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sheffieldtimes@hotmail.com

candidates AT-A-GLANCE

Planning Board *Continued from page 5*

Planning Board:



Daniel Moulton has not declared an official political affiliation. He currently serves as an alternate member of the Planning Board, having been appointed by the Board of Selectmen in November of 2002.

He is a life long resident of Sheffield and works at Custom Extrusion. He and his wife, Anne, have three children and live on Bears Den Road. Dan is the treasurer for the Sheffield Chapel. He was involved with Sheffield Kiwanis Little League for 17 years, and is now looking to put the time that he dedicated that into serving the community in another way -- through the Planning Board.

Dan thinks that Sheffield faces some major challenges, given its aging population, the demand for more and better infrastructure and concerns relating to increased traffic and waste disposal. He thinks the Master Plan offers a great opportunity for the town to consider different ways of handling these and other challenges and looks forward to being a part of the process.

**Don't miss the
CANDIDATE FORUM
Saturday, May 3rd
11am-12pm, Dewey Hall**

Co-sponsored by
Sheffield Friendly Union
&
Sheffield Association

Town Moderator:

Term: One year

Candidates: One -- Bruce Person

Seats open: One



Bruce Person has served as Sheffield's Town Moderator for the last 13 years. Born in Riverton, Connecticut, he graduated from the University of Connecticut at Storrs in 1965 and Tufts University School of Dental Medicine in 1969. He came to Sheffield in 1971, after serving in the Air Force for two years. He established his dental practice in Great Barrington, and has been in the same office for the past 31 years. He and his wife, Barbara, have two adult sons. Person is a former chairman of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District School Committee. He is also very involved with the Great Barrington Rotary Club and is Chairman of their Scholarship Assistance Fund.

The regular May/June Issue of the *Sheffield Times* will be out May 9. Look for it at these public locations:

Dewey Hall/Senior Center
Gulotta Mobil Station
Farmers' Market
Sheffield Library
PJs Country Convenience Store
Sheffield Market
Silk's Variety
Town Hall
&
Guidos (Gt. Barrington)

HOW TO SUPPORT THE SHEFFIELD TIMES - YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Submit articles, news items, photos or illustrations

Spotted any interesting wildlife? Have a good idea for a story? Taken a great picture of an interesting Sheffield scene? Let us know!

Send suggestions and submissions to the P.O. box or e-mail address below. News briefs can be one or two sentences, short articles between 150 and 450 words. Run suggestions for feature stories by the editors first.

Tell us about your events

Calendar items should be directed to the attention of the Calendar Editor and include a contact name and number in case there are questions.

Advertise in the *Sheffield Times*

The *Sheffield Times* acceptw ads at its discretion:

- From Sheffield businesses & residents: want ads; items for sale; services offered (landscaping, carpentry, electrical, forestry, typing, babysitting, sewing, etc.); business ads, etc.
- From outside of Sheffield: services, etc., that benefit Sheffield residents.
- No editorial or political ads.

Sixth-page to half-page ads are available. Please include font names if sent in paper format and include the font itself if sending digitally. We can accept the following digital formats: EPS, PDF, Pagemaker, Word.

Contact Rene Wood at 229-2875 or renewood@aol.com for rates or more information.

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Make a donation

The *Sheffield Times* is provided free at distribution sites throughout Sheffield and Ashley Falls. It's only partly supported by advertising. When you make a donation, you help make future issues possible and will get *Sheffield Times* in the mail. See the form below.

Sheffield Times
P.O. Box 1339
Sheffield, MA 01257
E-mail: sheffieldtimes@hotmail.com

JULY/AUGUST ISSUE:
DEADLINE: JUNE 13

PLEASE HELP SUPPORT THE SHEFFIELD TIMES!

I want to support the *Sheffield Times*! Enclosed is my tax-deductible donation of _____, made payable to the
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P.O. Box 1339

Name _____
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Sheffield, MA 01257

Address _____
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I'd like my contribution to remain anonymous. I'd like to get more involved with the *Sheffield Times*.
 I am particularly interested in or have experience with _____
 Please don't mail me the *Sheffield Times*, I pick it up at _____, one of the public distribution locations.

The *Sheffield Times* is provided free of charge at public distribution sites throughout Sheffield. Everyone who makes a donation will receive a copy by mail, so please note on this form if you do not want it sent to you and we won't add to your recycling pile!

Donations are tax-deductible through a partnership with the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation.

Candidate Forum, Saturday, May 3, 2003, 11am-12pm,
Dewey Hall

Annual Town Meeting, Monday, May 5, 2003, 7pm,
Mt. Everett Regional High School

Annual Town Elections, Monday, May 12, 2003, 9am-7pm,
Carlton French Meeting Room, Town Hall

Advertising Editor Wanted - Join the *Sheffield Times* Team!

The *Sheffield Times* is looking for a new advertising editor to replace Rene Wood, who is going back to school (Congratulations Rene!).

The position includes talking to local business people, managing ad sales and copy, invoicing, collecting and forwarding ad revenues and copy to the appropriate people. It is about 15-20 hours of work per issue, every two months. Good organization skills are important and computer experience and some knowledge of spreadsheets are a plus.

Rene will work with you for the next couple of months to ensure that the transition is a smooth one. For more information contact Rene Wood at 229-2875 or renecwood@aol.com.

This Special Supplement has been mailed to all addresses in Town by the Sheffield Association - please excuse duplications.

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